

Harrisville Fire District

115 Central Street

Harrisville, RI 02830

ANNUAL MEETING, MONDAY JUNE 8, 2015

Annual Meeting called to order at 8:10 PM by Moderator Ronald Slocum.

The moderator gave notice that there is a quorum, 25 voters in attendance.

Warrant was read by the Clerk.

Minutes of the 2014 annual meeting were read by the Clerk. Motion made by Brenda Gingell that the minutes be accepted as read. Seconded by James Scotland. So voted 25-0.

Fire Chief's Report

Chief Mark A. St. Pierre reported that the fire department responded to 899 alarms in 2014, a decrease of 15 alarms from 2013. This represents a 1.7% decrease in total alarms. Of the 899 alarms, 48 were in the former Glendale district, six more than the previous year. We continue to monitor emergency responses in our section of Glendale to be prepared to meet any future needs in that area of the District.

Our emergency medical service (EMS) calls in 2014 totaled 639 alarms, which is surprisingly the same amount from the 2013. The district carries sixteen emergency medical technicians (EMT's) who are active at various individual levels. That is an increase of four EMT's from 2013. In 2014 the District added one career EMT and four per Diem EMT's.

Our fire related alarms for 2014 totaled 260, a decrease of fourteen. This represents a 6% decrease. Total fire loss for 2014 was \$227,000.00, an increase of \$180,000.00 from 2013. This is a 79% increase in total fire loss from the previous year. Of those 260 fire related alarms, 68 were deemed false alarms. The roster of the fire department consists of 33 total members and four junior members. Of those, 28 are certified NFPA 1001 Firefighter I or II.

In 2014 we received mutual-aid from other departments a total of 110 occasions. Conversely, we provided mutual-aid to other departments a total of 205 occasions.

In fire prevention for both education and code enforcement for 2014, District fire marshals conducted 51 fire code inspections, 41 residential smoke/carbon monoxide detector inspections, and fourteen plan reviews for various types of construction. Our fire prevention education program is now in its 36th year. Programs were conducted at the William L. Callahan School,

Austin T. Levy School, Steere Farm Elementary School, Harrisville Pre-School, and at the fire station. The fire station continues to be an extended classroom for our community partner, the Austin T. Levy School.

In 2014 the station received upgrades to the kitchen, plumbing, roof, and generator. Also RISE Engineering completed an energy audit and lighting upgrades to the station.

During 2014, the department received a \$5,800.00 grant from the Levy Foundation to purchase four automatic external defibrillators to be placed on our fire apparatus. We also received a \$1,000.00 legislative grant from Sen. Paul Fogarty to purchase a new laptop training computer. The Department received a 50% matching grant from RI DEM to purchase new wild-land firefighting equipment. We presently have a Fire Act Grant (AFG) into the federal government for \$12,000.00, which will enable us to purchase new structural firefighting helmets to replace present ones which we have been using for over twenty years. In conjunction with the Oakland-Mapleville and Harmony Fire Departments, we are part of a regional SAFER grant request seeking funding for recruitment and retention of firefighters and EMT's. This program will begin being awarded next month. The Department now is presently at the \$1,000,000.00 mark for grant monies received over the past two decades.

The Per Diem schedule is up and running. These shifts are comprised of both Saturday and Sunday 24 hours, and the 11:00 pm – 7:00 am shift during weeknights. It is now progressed with ten per-diem personnel, six from within the department and four from outside the department and is working well.

Motion made by John Polacek to approve the fire chief's report. Seconded by David Place. So voted 25-0

Auditors Report

David Place stated the deficiencies would be coming off next year, that being the LOSAP program.

Motion made by David Place and seconded by Clinton O. Remington to approve auditor's report. So voted 25-0.

Election of Officers

Moderator: One declared candidate, Mr. Ronald Slocum.

Motion by Brenda Gingell, seconded by Michelle Bouchard that the clerk cast one ballot for Ronald Slocum. So voted, 25-0. Ronald Slocum re-elected as Moderator for a 1 year term.

Clerk: One declared candidate, Mr. Nathan M. St. Pierre.

Motion by Brenda Gingell, seconded by James Scotland that the clerk cast one ballot for Nathan M. St. Pierre. So voted, 19-0. Nathan M. St. Pierre re-elected as Clerk for a 1 year term.

Tax Assessor: Three declared candidates, Ms. Amanda Gingell, Ms. Stacey Richard, and Mr. Nathan M. St. Pierre.

Motion made by Brenda Gingell, seconded by Douglas Rhodes to elect Amanda Gingell to a three year term. So voted 25-0. Amanda Gingell re-elected as Tax Assessor for a 3 year term.

Second Tax Assessor position will fill remaining year of term formally held by Richard Gingell. Motion heard to elect Nathan M. St. Pierre as Tax Assessor. Motion heard to elect Stacey Richard as Tax Assessor. Nathan M. St. Pierre elected as Tax Assessor for a 1 year term. So voted 14-9.

Operating Committee: Three declared candidates, Mr. James Scotland, Mr. Clinton O. Remington, Mr. David Place.

Motion by Tina Pichie, seconded by David Place to elect James Scotland to Operating Committee. So voted 25-0. James Scotland re-elected to Operating Committee for a 3 year term.

Motion by Tina Pichie, seconded by David Place to elect Clinton O. Remington to Operating Committee. So voted 25-0. Clinton O. Remington elected to the Operating Committee for a 3 year term.

Motion by Tina Pichie, seconded by James Scotland to elect David Place to Operating Committee to fill remaining year left of term formally held by Richard Gingell. So voted 25-0. David Place elected to the Operating Committee for a 1 year term.

Approval of Fire District Budget

Nathan St. Pierre asked if the anticipated tax rate would decrease. Chairman Slocum stated there is no anticipated increase in the tax rate. The overall budget has decreased from the previous year.

Norman Mainville had a question about the Rescue Service line item. He questioned if this item has been increased, was it \$150,000 last year? Chairman Slocum stated that line item was increased this year.

Motion by Norman Mainville to close discussion, seconded by David Place. So voted 25-0.

Vote of the Fire District budget was as follows. Motion made by David Place and seconded by Michelle Bouchard that the Fire District budget for fiscal year 2015-2016 be no less than \$1,345,952.00 and not more than \$1,445,952.00. So voted 25-0.

Approval of Water Department Budget

Motion by David Place to close discussion, seconded by Michelle Bouchard. So voted 25-0.

Vote of the Water Department budget was as follows. Motion made by James Scotland, seconded by Clinton O. Remington that the Water Department budget for fiscal year 2015-2016 be no less than \$747,468.00 and not more than \$847,468.00. So voted 25-0.

Approval of Funds to Purchase a New EMS/Rescue Vehicle

Chief Mark St. Pierre stated the truck purchasing committee met eight times during the last year. The truck went out to bid and three bids were received. The bids were as follows: PL Custom, vehicle - \$226,717.00, Striker system - \$40,937.00, for a total of \$267,654.00; Horton, vehicle - \$222,512.00, Striker system - \$35,166.00, for a total of \$257,678.00; Lifeline, vehicle - \$213,881.00, Striker system - \$41,497.00, for a total of \$255,378.00. Chief St. Pierre went on to explain that the vehicle was specked out to have a Dodge cab and chassis. The Chief also explained that the Striker system is a new patient transport system that enhances safety and will be mandatory on all EMS/rescue vehicles delivered after July 1, 2015. Chief St. Pierre reported that it is the recommendation of the purchasing committee that the District approve the bid from Lifeline at a total of \$255,378.00.

Motion made by Douglas Rhodes, seconded by Mark St. Pierre to approve the purchase of a new EMS/rescue vehicle in the amount of \$255,400.00 from Lifeline. So voted 25-0.

Norman Mainville asked that District look to move up the timeline for replacement of EMS/rescue vehicles from the current ten years to seven years. No vote was taken.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

None.

Good of the Cause

Moderator Slocum and Norman Mainville advised the audience of the EMS Excellence Awards being awarded to several members of the department for the great work done at a recent call to Operating Committee member Bruce Fournier's house for his wife. The situation was stressful, with the added stress of the patient being well known to responders.

Nathan St. Pierre stated that the District is doing a good job with its finances, and we must keep it up. With the recent fire district troubles in Coventry and in Lincoln, fire districts throughout the state are under the microscope. We must continue to be diligent to remain fiscally sound.

Adjournment

Motion made by Davis Place and seconded by Michelle Bouchard that the annual meeting be adjourned at 8:54 PM. So voted 25-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nathan M. St. Pierre, MPA

District Clerk